Fellowship Award | Up to $125,000 in salary and benefits support
---|---
Grant Term | 1 Year
Start of Grant Term | 7/1/2020
Application Deadline | 11/15/2019 11:59 PM EST
Expected Number of Funded Grants | 1

ASTRO-Varian Radiation Oncology Research Training Fellowship

**Purpose**
The ASTRO-Varian Radiation Oncology Research Training Fellowship is a joint effort to advance the field of radiation oncology in novel ways by providing unique research opportunities in the industry setting. The aim of the Fellowship is to support the next generation of researchers and significantly improve outcomes and quality of life for cancer patients.

The Fellow will conduct research in the field of radiation oncology in collaboration with Varian. Varian currently pursues research and development on a variety of topics including: radiobiology, immunotherapy, applications of artificial intelligence in radiation oncology, information systems, treatment planning, imaging and image-guidance, new hardware for treatment delivery systems, quality assurance, and so on. All work will be conducted at a Varian research site and not at the Fellow’s home institution or any other academic site. The Fellow and/or the Fellow’s home institution will be required to sign an agreement with Varian that includes intellectual property arrangements.

The grant will provide salary and benefits support up to **$125,000 for one year.** In addition, a housing allowance may be considered depending on the Varian research site. Neither ASTRO nor Varian will pay indirect costs as part of this award. Funds from this award must be used for salary support for the awardee. No money may be used for laboratory or other supplies.

One award will be funded.

**Eligibility Criteria**
- Applicants (PhD, MD, MD/PhD, DO) must be matriculated in a residency program and have sufficient time (1 year) to conduct a research project at Varian starting July 1, 2020. Faculty members or equivalent status are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be employed by a recognized US research institution at the time the application is submitted.
- Applicants must be ASTRO members in good standing at the time the grant begins on July 1, 2020.

**Commitment from the Fellow**
- The Fellow must designate a mentor at his/her residency program institution who will provide guidance and support for the research opportunity. The Fellow will also be assigned a Varian mentor who will oversee the research project.
Because of the focus on progression to independence as a researcher, the Fellow should propose a career development plan that is consistent with his/her previous training and suited to his/her career development needs.

Since the goal is to provide the Fellow with a research opportunity in industry, the Fellow is not allowed to maintain additional research related grant support while serving in the fellowship program.

The Fellow is required to contact ASTRO immediately if any problems are encountered that would prevent him/her from successfully completing the Fellowship.

The Fellow is encouraged to attend at least one ASTRO Annual Meeting and present his/her research findings at the meeting. Up to $2000 of the Fellowship Award can be used for travel and registration fees to attend the ASTRO Annual Meeting.

Commitment from the Fellow’s Institution

- The institution must be willing to allow the Fellow to conduct research at a Varian site during the resident’s research time.
- The institution must sign an agreement with Varian to allow the Fellow to conduct research at Varian. The agreement will include terms on the handling of intellectual property developed while the Fellow is conducting research at Varian.
- The Fellow and institution must make a good faith effort to complete all agreements with Varian in a timely manner (prior to the July 1, 2020 start date).
- The host department will act as the fiscal intermediary. The institution will pay the salary to the Fellow and be responsible for satisfying tax withholding, deposit and/or reporting requirements applicable to the payment of the award. The Fellow will be responsible for individual income taxes.
- ASTRO and Varian do NOT pay institutional facility and administrative costs. Funds provided under this fellowship program will be used to pay salary and benefits for the recipient (up to $125,000). Up to $2000 may be used to reimburse travel and registration costs to attend the ASTRO Annual Meeting. Depending on the Varian research location, a housing allowance may be added.
- The institution will be required to provide sufficient additional funds to supplement the Fellow’s salary or other fees.
- The Institution will maintain insurance for medical professional liability and comprehensive general liability during the Fellowship period.
- Any change in the institution, department chair, mentor, or Fellow’s position that might affect the Fellow’s ability to successfully complete the Fellowship should be communicated as soon as possible to ASTRO so that appropriate action can be taken.

General timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 15, 2019</td>
<td>Release of RFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15, 2019</td>
<td>Applications due at 11:59pm Eastern Standard time (GMT -5) ProposalCENTRAL application site closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2019</td>
<td>Review of application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2019</td>
<td>Grant Review Panel convenes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2020</td>
<td>Final decisions and review at ASTRO Board meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2020</td>
<td>Recipient announced, and agreements initiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2020</td>
<td>Start of research program at Varian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASTRO-Varian Radiation Oncology Research Training Fellowship 2020 Guidelines

Application Guidelines
Applications must be submitted online at proposalCENTRAL:
https://proposalcentral.altum.com/GrantOpportunities.asp?GMID=105

Deadline for submission is: **11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time (GMT -5), Friday, November 15, 2019**

Formatting
All materials **MUST** be prepared in English, single-spaced with normal spacing between letters and words, using a font style such as Arial or Times New Roman and font size of 10-12. A minimum of one-half inch margins must be used on all page borders.

Each section must be loaded into ProposalCENTRAL. Applicants can stop at any point and save the application to be completed by the deadline.

Submission Content
All applications must contain the following:

1. **Personal statement** (Recommended length 2 pages): A detailed personal statement that outlines the following:
   a. Prior research experience
   b. Dedication to work in radiation oncology
   c. Value provided to ASTRO, Varian, and the research field
   d. Intention for pursuing this Fellowship
   e. Future professional goals and plans
2. **Biosketch**: The applicant must submit an NIH style biosketch including a list of relevant publications and currently funded research projects (5- page limit).
3. **Letters of recommendation (2)**: Upload two letters of recommendation outlining previous work, dedication to a research career, and characteristics that make this opportunity in industry a particularly good option for the applicant. One letter must be from the Institutional mentor.
4. **Institutional letter of recommendation (1)**: Upload a letter of support from the resident’s department chair. This letter must document that the department chair supports this Fellowship program and acknowledge that the resident, if selected, will conduct research at a Varian site. If the mentor is the department chair, an additional letter of recommendation is necessary.

Applications lacking the required content or in the incorrect format will be considered ineligible for review. Materials submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

No additional data or documentation such as accepted manuscripts or received awards will be accepted.

Application Review Information
All grant applications are subject to peer review. Reviewers are members of the ASTRO Research Grants Evaluation Committee and Varian research and development teams and/or Medical Affairs. The reviewers will convene to recommend an awardee following the peer review. Final decisions will be subject to the approval of the ASTRO Boards of Directors and Varian.

Selected candidates will be those who demonstrate a strong research background, a desire to work in an industry setting, and a well-crafted plan for a future research career.
Applicants should be aware that receipt of this fellowship may be reported by Varian to government entities or otherwise to third parties, as required by law or pursuant to Varian policy.

Questions can be directed to research@astro.org or 1.703.839.7368